



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
9 FEBRUARY 1967

1. South Vietnam

As of darkness this evening (Vietnam time), 134 Communist violations of the truce had been reported. Our embassy in Saigon comments about these incidents, admittedly on limited evidence:

--Most of them were probably caused by Viet Cong guerrillas not under firm control of "main line" commanders;

--A large proportion involved US security patrols who came upon enemy troops unable to be sure they were not being attacked;

--Only a few incidents involved Vietnamese troops (who may, however, not be reporting promptly). One Vietnamese commander, seeing Viet Cong troops approaching his village, went out to chat with the Communist commander and told him to keep out; the Viet Cong presently shoved off.

2. Vietnam

The Australian cabinet has decided to increase nonmilitary assistance to Vietnam for the fiscal year by some 70 percent. The additional aid will be for such things as water supply, medical teams, and provincial hospitals.

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3. Indonesia

Foreign Minister Malik hopes agreement for regional cooperation can be reached with Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines by the end of March.

The new organization, as Malik sees it, would focus on cultural and economic matters. It would shy away from security questions and divisive political issues.

Lingering Malaysian and Filipino suspicion of Indonesia may throw Malik's timetable off. Nevertheless, a new regional grouping seems very much in the cards, showing once again how far back the new regime has brought Indonesia from the lunatic fringe of the third world.

4. Ethiopia

When Haile Selassie visits Moscow at the end of this month, Ethiopian officials tell us they expect the Soviets to press for a reduction in American influence as the price for stopping Moscow's buildup of the Somali Army.

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There is, of course, an element of orchestration for the Emperor's visit to Washington in these reports. He will be after arms on his visit here. Nonetheless, he is genuinely disturbed over Somali and Arab antagonisms toward Ethiopia, and may be willing to make some concessions to the Soviets.

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5. Spain

The United States Intelligence Board has approved a National Intelligence Estimate on Spain as follows:

- Franco will remain firmly in the saddle until he dies or retires;
- A major upheaval when he departs is unlikely;
- A successor regime would be almost as authoritarian but more supple in cautiously acceding to increased demands for reform;
- Continued cooperation with the US on base arrangements is expected of both Franco and a successor regime, although they will try to drive a harder bargain when agreements come up for renegotiation;
- Franco probably cannot attain Spain's main foreign policy aim of association with the Common Market, but a successor government might have better luck.

6. Communist China

The Soviets have today given a virtual ultimatum to the Chinese to stop harassment of the Soviet Embassy in Peking. "Unless this is done within the shortest space of time, the Soviet side reserves the right to take necessary measures in response."

While the Soviet note is not specific on what these measures might be, it says that the embassy is now unable to carry out its functions, including the "concrete question" of Soviet aid to Vietnam via China.

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